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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/034,578	12/28/2001	Bernhard Albeck	970266D2/TL	1795
27799	7590	12/02/2005	EXAMINER	
COHEN, PONTANI, LIEBERMAN & PAVANE 551 FIFTH AVENUE SUITE 1210 NEW YORK, NY 10176			LE, THANH TAM T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2839	

DATE MAILED: 12/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/034,578

Applicant(s)

ALBECK ET AL.

Examiner

Thanh-Tam T. Le

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11/14/05.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 18-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/14/05
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. Claims 18-22 and 26-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Mews et al. (5,480,323).

Regarding claim 18, Mews et al., figures 1 and 4-5, show a terminal comprising:

- a contact zone (1) having a longitudinal axis;
- a slit blade insulation piercing connector (SBIPC) (16, figure 25) having a wire receiving slit (14, figure 5), the SBIPC being in the contact zone;
- an insulating housing (2) having an inlet slot (9) shaped to receive an insulated wire (7), the housing retaining the SBIPC in the contact zone with the inlet slot being aligned with the wire receiving slit (figure 5);
- a first pair of rib-shaped projections (8) positioned a distance from the SBIPC along the longitudinal axis, and disposed along opposite edges (10) of the inlet slot;

wherein the housing further comprising two walls (6) spaced apart from one another defining a groove-shaped extension (not labeled, figure 5) therebetween, the extension projecting outward from the inlet slot along the longitudinal axis and having a distal end remote from the inlet slot, the extension being dimensioned to retain therein a free end of the insulated wire;

wherein the extension at least in part, has a width which is slightly larger than an outer diameter of the insulated wire; and

wherein the extension further comprising a second pair of rib-shaped projections (another 8) near the distal end to define a reception slot (not labeled) therebetween for the insulated wire.

Regarding claims 19 and 20, wherein the first and second pairs of projections are integral with the walls (figure 1).

Regarding claim 21, wherein the inlet slot having a width, which is smaller than the outer diameter of the insulated wire.

Regarding claim 22, figure 5 shows a bottom wall (not labeled) on the extension, which is being essentially in alignment with a bottom edge of the wire receiving slit.

Regarding claims 26-28, figure 5 shows the walls in the region of the extension are formed with projecting clamping surface (10) comprising integrally formed projecting portions located at opposite sides of the walls and facing each other, wherein the projecting portions comprising inclined insertion guide surfaces.

Regarding claim 29, wherein the housing, at least in regions of the contact zone and the walls defining the extension having an outer dimensions which are dimensioned with respect to minimum size required by insulation of adjacent terminals and required air and creep paths between the adjacent terminals.

Regarding claim 30, wherein separating walls (6) between the adjacent terminals are dimensioned to be a minimum with respect to required air and creep paths of the adjacent terminals.

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Regarding claim 31, wherein the first pair of projections project with different dimensions at selected positions over their length.

Regarding claim 32, wherein the extension having regions of different widths.

Regarding claims 33-35, are rejected as same as claims 18-22 above.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 18, 23-25, 33 and 35-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hammer et al. (5,575,679).

Regarding claim 18, Hammer et al., figures 3, 8 and 11, show a terminal comprising:

- a contact zone (not labeled) having a longitudinal axis;
- a slit blade insulation piercing connector (SBIPC) (17, figure 8) having a wire receiving slit (15a, figure 11), the SBIPC being in the contact zone;
- an insulating housing (1) having an inlet slot (11) shaped to receive an insulated wire (122), the housing retaining the SBIPC in the contact zone with the inlet slot being aligned with the wire receiving slit (figure 11);
- a first pair of rib-shaped projections (9) positioned a distance from the SBIPC along the longitudinal axis, and disposed along opposite edges (12) of the inlet slot;

wherein the housing further comprising two walls (9a) spaced apart from one

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another defining a groove-shaped extension (not labeled, figure 11) therebetween, the extension projecting outward from the inlet slot along the longitudinal axis and having a distal end remote from the inlet slot, the extension being dimensioned to retain therein a free end of the insulated wire;

wherein the extension at least in part, has a width which is slightly larger than an outer diameter of the insulated wire; and

wherein the extension further comprising a second pair of rib-shaped projections (another 9) near the distal end to define a reception slot (not labeled) therebetween for the insulated wire.

Regarding claims 23-25 and 36-37, a closing-wall/enclosing means (figure 3, a side wall of 44) closing off the distal end of the extension and wherein the closing-wall is frangible to permit breaking thereof upon introduction of the insulated wire into the extension.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 18-37 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

6. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh-Tam T. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-2094. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

8. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, TC Patel can be reached on 571-272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Le', with a horizontal line underneath.

Thanh-Tam T. Le
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2839

TL.
11/28/05.